



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

November 2004

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES UNCHANGED IN OCTOBER

Two of three southeast region counties showed no change in their monthly unemployment rates. The state and national figures for October also remained at September's rate of unemployment. The lack of change in the unemployment rate from September to October is common.

The **Kenosha MSA** unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in both

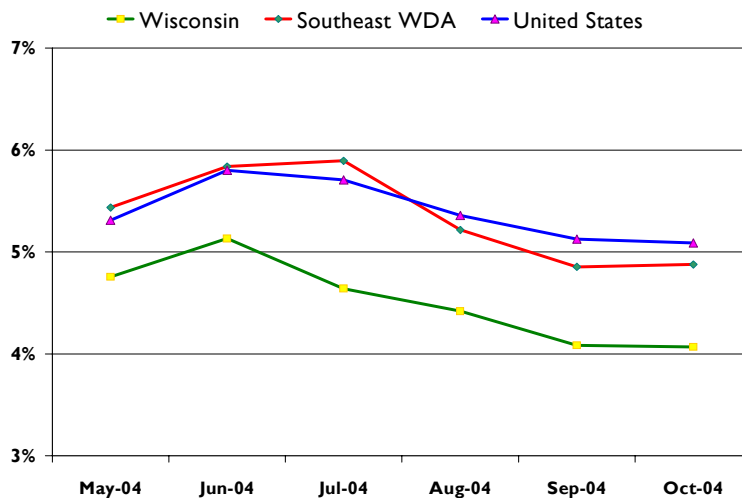
September and October. Compared to last October, Kenosha County has 1,400 more employed, 200 fewer unemployed residents and an unemployment rate that is three-tenths of a percentage point lower.

The county's tally of total industry employment as measured by the nonfarm wage and salary estimates survey was 54,800 jobs in

October reflecting a 200-job increase compared to September's final estimate. The growth was a bit lower than expected but an increase like this is still within the bounds of expectation given historical standards. Change was measured in only a few sectors. Educational and health services and government each gained 200 jobs. A 200-job decrease in leisure and hospitality employment offset these gains, hence the overall 200-job gain. The remaining industry sectors employment totals were unchanged over the month.

Annually, Kenosha County shows a net gain of 300 jobs. Professional and business services (+300 jobs) showed the largest annual employment gain at the sector level. Small gains of about 100 jobs each were measured in various other sectors such as total trade, financial activities, information and government. Annual employment decreases were measured in manufacturing (-500 jobs) and other services (-100 jobs).

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



source: DWD and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: October 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03
Labor force	3,109,532	3,102,200	3,079,632	85,684	85,186	84,421	93,627	94,431	93,548
Employed	2,983,026	2,975,496	2,939,985	81,573	81,071	80,152	88,007	88,799	87,018
Unemployed	126,506	126,704	139,647	4,111	4,115	4,269	5,620	5,632	6,530
% Unemployed	4.1%	4.1%	4.5%	4.8%	4.8%	5.1%	6.0%	6.0%	7.0%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03
Labor force	57,493	57,787	56,783	236,804	237,404	234,752	147,978,000	147,186,000	146,787,000
Employed	55,674	56,010	54,865	225,254	225,880	222,035	140,447,000	139,641,000	138,619,000
Unemployed	1,819	1,777	1,918	11,550	11,524	12,717	7,531,000	7,545,000	8,169,000
% Unemployed	3.2%	3.1%	3.4%	4.9%	4.9%	5.4%	5.1%	5.1%	5.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - October 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
<u>Employment in 1,000's</u>	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Sep. 2004	Change since Oct. 2003	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Sep. 2004	Change since Oct. 2003	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Sep. 2004	Change since Oct. 2003	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Sep. 2004	Change since Oct. 2003	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Sep. 2004	Change since Oct. 2003
	Oct. 2004	Sep. 2004	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2004	Sep. 2004	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2004	Sep. 2004	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2004	Sep. 2004	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2004	Sep. 2004	Oct. 2003
All Industries	2,867.9	13.2	58.0	54.8	0.2	0.3	79.6	-0.6	0.4	43.4	-0.1	0.4	177.8	-0.5	1.1
Construction/Natural Resources	137.3	-0.3	2.6	2.4	0.0	0.0	3.9	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	8.4	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	519.8	-0.3	16.4	9.3	0.0	-0.5	19.3	-0.4	-0.1	8.9	-0.1	0.0	37.5	-0.5	-0.6
Total Trade	446.9	4.4	8.4	9.0	0.0	0.1	12.1	-0.1	-0.4	5.8	0.0	0.1	26.9	-0.1	-0.2
Retail Trade	328.2	3.9	3.7	6.9	0.0	0.0	9.1	-0.1	-0.4	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	118.7	0.5	4.7	2.1	0.0	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	109.5	0.0	1.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1	4.7	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	161.7	0.1	2.8	1.8	0.0	0.1	2.9	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.2
Education and Health Services	380.2	0.8	5.9	8.6	0.2	0.1	10.5	0.0	-0.1	3.9	0.0	0.2	23.0	0.2	0.2
Leisure and Hospitality	251.5	-8.0	6.5	6.1	-0.2	0.1	6.6	-0.2	0.1	7.1	-0.8	-0.1	19.8	-1.2	0.1
Info./Prof./Bus. and Other Services	446.6	0.1	18.0	6.7	0.0	0.3	12.0	-0.1	0.7	5.2	0.1	0.1	23.9	0.0	1.1
Information	47.7	0.1	-1.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	268.9	-0.4	20.1	3.5	0.0	0.3	6.6	-0.1	0.7	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	130.0	0.4	-0.6	2.7	0.0	-0.1	4.8	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	414.4	16.4	-3.9	9.4	0.2	0.1	10.3	0.2	0.1	8.0	0.6	0.3	27.7	1.0	0.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

The October unemployment rate for the **Racine MSA** (not seasonally adjusted) was 6.0 percent and was unchanged from September. It is one percent point lower than it was in October 2003 representing 1,000 more employed residents and 900 fewer unemployed.

Racine County's total nonfarm wage and salary employment stood at 79,600 jobs in October. This was 600 jobs fewer than September's total. The majority of October's net job loss was centered in a 400-job decrease in manufacturing employment. Leisure and hospitality employment had 200 fewer jobs over the month. Total trade; and professional and business services employment decreased by 100 jobs each.

An annual comparison of total jobs shows that Racine County gained 400 jobs on a net basis compared to October 2003. This was the second month in a row and the fifth month of 2004 to post an annual gain in total jobs. A 700-job gain in professional and business services employment lead October's overall job increase. Other industry sectors that showed annual employment growth were financial activities, lei-

sure and hospitality, and government, each with 100 more jobs than in October 2003. Total trade, manufacturing and educational and health services each posted annual employment decreases of 100 jobs. In the case of lower employment in educational and health services, the employment deficit is weighted towards the educational sub-industries. The health services component was unchanged from an annual perspective.

Walworth County's unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in October to 3.2 percent. Walworth was the only regional county, and one of a small number of Wisconsin counties, to show a monthly rise in its rate. This small rise is seasonal for Walworth and is characteristic of change normally seen between September and October as the labor force continues to transition from its summer-time peak. Walworth's current unemployment rate is two-tenths of a percentage point lower than in October 2003.

Walworth had a total of 43,400 jobs in October 2004. This was a slight overall decrease of jobs (-100 jobs) compared to the previous month. Like many counties, Walworth's leisure and hospitality sector

employment decreased sharply (-800 jobs) in October, while its publicly and privately-owned educational institutions increased their payrolls. Employment in Walworth's remaining industry sectors was fairly subdued over the month.

Walworth measured an additional 400 jobs compared to October 2003. Government, and educational and health services showed annual increases of 300 and 200 jobs, respectively. Total trade; and information, professional and business services each recorded 100 more jobs than in October 2003. The only industry sector to report an employment decrease was transportation, warehousing and utilities, -100 jobs.

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